



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Teens and Alcohol Focus of Town Hall Meeting

Rockford, IL - In recognition of April as National Alcohol Awareness month, the Rockford Alcohol Free Teens (RAFT) coalition will host a Town Hall meeting to educate the community about underage drinking and to mobilize efforts around prevention. "Teens and Alcohol: Real Talk" will be held Tuesday, April 22, 2014 from 5:00pm to 7:30pm at the Rockford Public Library, 215 N. Wyman St. and is open to the public. Families and youth who have been affected by alcohol abuse are encouraged to attend.

In 2012, 41% percent of high school seniors in the U.S. drank alcohol in the last month. In Illinois, this percentage was even higher, with 47% of seniors reporting use in the last 30 days. Underage drinking has been linked to poor academic performance, violence and sexual assault, and serious car crashes and fatalities. In 2010, underage drinking cost the state of Illinois \$2.9 billion in legal costs, medical bills, and other dollars that went towards the aftermath of adolescent alcohol use.

"Teens and Alcohol: Real Talk" is sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA). RAFT is funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Community Services Division of the City of Rockford Human Services Department, a Community Action Agency.

For more information about the event, contact Delicia Harris 815-967-4036 or Delicia.harris@rockfordil.gov.

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